

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KENYA BECOMES THE #1 TEA EXPORTER IN THE WORLD

NAIROBI – The Kenyan Government is proud to announce that Kenya is now the world's top tea exporter. The Kenyan tea industry overtook Sri Lanka in tea exportation in 2009, according to the latest figures from the Tea Board of Kenya.

Kenya now accounts for over 22 percent of the world's tea supply. While it has been the longtime global leader in black tea exports, this marks the first time it has led in overall tea exports. In 2009, the Tea Board of Kenya reported exporting nearly 342 million kilograms of tea to 47 markets around the world.

"This significant accomplishment comes as a result of the growing production capacity of Kenya's workforce and our reliability as a trading partner," said Ambassador Peter Ogego. "The tea industry is a fundamental part of our economy, and we are looking forward to its continued growth in markets around the world."

Kenya's ability to produce tea year-round rather than seasonally allowed it to ascend past traditional tea export leaders such as Sri Lanka, China, and India. Kenya has about 50 tea varieties growing in 370,658 acres of land reserved for tea production.

To learn more about Kenya's exports and economy, please visit www.kenya.info.

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Kenya-based Ushahidi relief efforts continue in Chile

March 2, 2010

Moments after a massive earthquake struck Chile last Saturday, a team nearly halfway around the world in Kenya was working to coordinate relief efforts and rescue survivors. A Nairobi-based crisis group known as Ushahidi began targeting areas in urgent need of emergency supplies using online interactive mapping tools.

Ushahidi, which means "testimony" or "witness" in Swahili, is an open source project that allows users to share information during crises. It utilizes platforms such as texting, e-mail, and Twitter to relay messages. The innovative platform for aggregating mobile news was originally developed by Kenyan citizen journalists in 2008.

The online tool, recently used in the Haiti earthquake aftermath, was put to use in Chile within an hour of the devastation. Displaced Chileans utilized Ushahidi to send thousands of relief requests. These messages were then relayed to the Red Cross who immediately sprung to action.

The page dedicated to tracking the current crisis in Chile has a map illustrating the reported locations of collapsed structures, damaged schools, and blocked roads in devastated areas. Another feature highlights fires, contaminated water supplies, trapped persons, and survivors.

Messages aggregated via Ushahidi included requests such as, "Send help. I'm stuck under a building with my child. We have no supplies."

Erik Hersman, a member of the volunteer team in Nairobi, called Ushahidi's efforts in Chile "our biggest success story. All we need is a computer and a fast internet connection."

To read the entire article, please click [here](#).

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To visit the Ushahidi website and get involved in Chile relief efforts, please click [here](#).

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